

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am re-reading Tim Keller's book *CenterChurch* at the moment. Tim Keller, who died earlier this year, was the minister at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York. A church that saw quite amazing growth, at the heart of a very secular city. He was also involved with renewal and church planting in many cities and countries around the world. At the heart of *CenterCity* and Keller's ministry is the assertion that we all need to experience and continue to experience a renewed sense of Christ's great love for us. That all we do and how we act then comes out of that Gospel vision, individually and corporately as a church. The amazing truth of the gospel, that while we were yet sinners Christ came and died for us and was raised to life again and through that has reconciled us with God. A prayer at the centre of that conviction comes from Paul's letter to the Ephesians... a pray I share with you...

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

-Ephesians 3:16-19

I must admit when I read this prayer that the lyrics of an old spiritual come to mind... for me that comes with the beat and horn section of the 1990's kiwi band Supergroove's song '*Can't Get Enough*'

"so high can't get over it, so low can't get under it, so wide can't get round it. O rock my soul"

But also that this prayer is prayed for those who are already committed to Christ. A prayer that we may continually be amazed, filled, inspired, energised, motivated and moved to action by the great grace and love of Christ. Keller starts the section of his book where he quotes this passage by saying

"Gospel renewal does not simply seek to convert nominal church members; it also insists that all Christians—even committed ones—need the spirit to bring the gospel home to their hearts for deepened experiences of Christ's love and power."

May Paul's prayer be our experience and our prayer for our church... Renew us O God.

Here are the notices

[Worship HopeWhangarei Sunday November 5th](#)

Come join us on Sunday morning as we gather for worship at our three sites. We continue our sermon series 'the way of the Cross' working our way through the gospel according to Mark.

HopeTikipunga @ 10:00am - Mark 2:18-22 - Howard Carter (Communion)

HopeCentral @ 9:30am - Mark 2:23-27 - Pauline Hampshire

HopeOnerahi @ 9:30am - Mark 3:1-6 - Lorne Campbell

[Zoom service 9:30 am Sunday November 5th](#)

Please note that the meeting ID is now a new one...

The zoom service this week will be the 9:30am service from HopeCentral.

Here is the link for the service <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83429062440>

If you are using the zoom app on a mobile device or smart phone the Meeting ID is 83429062440

If you are joining by landline, dial 09 8846780 and follow the Instructions, again the meeting ID is 83429062440

"To get a touch from the Lord is so real"

Do you have a testimony to share?

It was a privilege to hear Trish Shelton's personal testimony of God's faithfulness and His timing through her time of ill health and surgery at last Sunday's combined gospel and healing service at Central. The faithful and on-going prayers of her friends and connect group too were central to her situation and recovery. Thank you Trish for sharing.

If there is anyone who has a testimony to share from the service of God's touch or even a Divine healing that followed, please could you get in touch with Lorne.

Sharing a testimony is so encouraging and builds faith as others hear what God is and has been doing. Lorne can be contacted at:

email: lorne@hopewhangarei.nz or phone: 0211356275.

South African gospel singer Louis Brittz Thursday November 16th 2023



Louis Brittz – a well-known Gospel Singer in South Africa, will be visiting Whangarei with Charismata Singers - Whangarei' own Gospel Choir Thursday 16 November 2023 @ 18:00 (6pm). To book a ticket please follow this link (note the one on the PowerPoint slide on Sunday was wrong.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe508dqR87z28lwaM2e5j3pryBsSdblDnHs81hxbAJOZvA-ig/viewform>

Venue: Church Unlimited

If you want a taste of what Louis Brittz music is like here is a link to a video to a song "you came for me" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tD6WOPA1mcY&t=104s>

Hope Tikipunga Christmas

Morning Tea Wednesday 15th November 2023 at 10.00am

Come along and enjoy a nice morning tea (provided)

Kathryn & Margaret will be with us and bring some New Christmas crafts/decorations for you to make.



Enquiries to Helen 4373656 or 0274373016



Blessing

I know its sort of repetition but as martin Luther says ‘the truth of the gospel is the principal article of all Christian doctrine... Most necessary is it, therefore, that we should know this article well, teach it to one another, and beat it into our heads continually’ So here is a verse from the prayer we started with... a prayer that we need to be praying for ourselves and as it says for all God’s people That you...

may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ,

Kia kaha ai koutou me te hunga tapu katoa ki te whakaaro i te whānui, i te roa, i te hōhonu, i te tiketike,

Howard Carter

SENIOR MINISTER

HOPEWHANGAREI

October 31st 2023

PS:- This photo of a kawau Paka (little pied shag) in the rain kind of sums up the weather we've been having this week... It's called Yeah and how's your day going?

